



Military Health System **Health Care Reengineering:**

Be an Innovator and Create the Future!

Title of Initiative: BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSTIC AND CLINICAL PATHWAYS

Type of Initiative: MHS-wide

Implementation Site(s): Madigan Army Medical Center

Implementation Location(s): Fort Lewis, WA

Date Submitted: November 2001

DESCRIPTION OF INITIATIVE

Madigan Army Medical Center has designed a program that improves the diagnosis the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer patients. The new program provides fast and convenient access to: **(Can you provide me with more detail of the program and how it exactly works.)**

- Mammography
- Detecting breast cancer at the earliest stage
- Optimizing treatment
- Enhancing quality of life through a multidisciplinary approach

The impact of early breast cancer diagnoses plays a crucial role in the development of the Breast Cancer Program at Madigan. During 1998, the diagnosis of ductal carcinoma-in-situ (DCIS) increased between 5 and 10 fold, from approximately a 5 – 15 percent incidence to a 20-40 percent incidence. During the same time period, other Army Medical Centers had a diagnosis rate of 5-15 percent for DCIS. The trend continues to the present time. Early detection leads to a reduction in total health care cost. The economic savings are evidenced by comparing the cost of an open surgical biopsy of approximately \$3200-\$4000 to cost of image guided biopsy of \$700-\$1700. In the 7 years since introduction of the Breast Cancer Diagnostic Pathways, recommendations for radiological biopsy over open surgery biopsy has resulted in a savings of about 3.4 to 5.6 million dollars (based on the type of image-guided procedure).

Results of Initiative:

In the first 7 years of the program approximately 450 female patients entered the Breast Diagnostic and Breast Cancer Clinical Pathways. The multidisciplinary approach **(is there a**

description of the multidisciplinary approach) in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer results in many benefits to the patient, her family, and the staff involved in her care. Coordinated multidisciplinary approach has led to a reduction of potential risk management problems and has ensured that the patients receive personalized care. The program allows the facility to care for more patients with greater efficiency, in less time, diagnose patients at a stage that is imminently curable, and decreased cost associated with a breast cancer diagnosis. Other benefits of the multidisciplinary approach include open communication between medical services and increased interaction with primary care providers. This system ensures that a team, which is fully informed of the patient status, coordinates patient care.

POINT OF CONTACT (POC) INFORMATION

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